THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 29th July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER :—"I have placed 31 questions to-day. Tomorrow and the day after also I will place 30 questions each. So far, I have received 2,013 questions and every day I am receiving answers for about 30 questions from the Government; so, I will place 30 questions every day and I will allow very few supplementary questions."

Representations made to the Central Government re. the Ordinance to control dealings in foodgrains.

* 273 Q.—JANAB K. M. SEETHI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have made any representations to the Central Government pointing out the adverse effect of the latest ordinance of the President of India to control dealings in foodgrains on the relief afforded to the people of this State by the recent decontrol of foodgrains; and

(b) what steps the Government propose to take to avoid the possible cornering of the foodgrains as a result of the operation of the said ordinance?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"(a) & (b) The entire question is now under the active consideration of this Government in consultation with the Union Food Minister and an announcement of their decision will be made shortly."

Licence for grain dealers.

* 274 Q.—SRI R. VENKATA JAGGA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the order of the Government of India that all grain dealers should possess a licence is going to be put into force immediately; and

(b) whether the Government will take the opinion of this House into consideration before this order is put into force?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"(a) & (b) The question is under the active consideration of this Government and an announcement of their decision will be made shortly. The Government do not consider it necessary to consult this House in the matter at this stage."

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SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Will the Government consider giving licences in the Madras State under the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the present question is with reference to an order recently passed by the Government of India. The hon. Member is suggesting some other thing and he may put a separate question."

SRI R. VENKATA JAGGA RAO :—" ధాన్యానికి ధర హెచ్చుగా ఉన్నది గనుక ఈ గవర్నమెంటు సెంట్రల్ గవర్నమెంటుయొక్క ఆర్డరను వెంటనే అమలులో పెట్టి ప్రతి చోటులో ఉన్నటువంటి పెద్ద పెద్ద సావుకార్లు, బ్లాకు మార్కెటీర్లువద్ద ఉన్నటువంటి ధాన్యాన్ని గవర్నమెంటు స్వాధీనము చేసుకొని ప్రజలకు అందజేస్తుందా ? "

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, I shall translate the question. Now that the prices are rising very high, will the Government consider putting the order of the Central Government immediately into force and take the grain that is now in the hands of the big blackmarketeers in my district and sell it in the open market? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am afraid there are too many assumptions in the question with which I do not agree."

SRI LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" Are the Government aware that after the introduction of the licence system, the prices of millets in Rayalaseema have gone up by Rs. 2 per palla? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have not introduced the licensing system yet."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Will the Government consider releasing the stocks that are now with the procurement agents to the free market so that the level of prices can be maintained? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the level of prices can be maintained only when we issue rice at the controlled rate and that is being done now through the fair price shops."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In view of the fact that the Central Government have stated that the prices of foodgrains should not go up in the free market more than 10 per cent over the control price, what is it that the Government of Madras propose to do in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" They have not stated like that so far; they have indicated that the price level should be round about 10 per cent; that does not mean that it should at no time go beyond 10 per cent."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" Will the Government be pleased to pass the necessary orders empowering the district authorities to seize the hoarded stocks of foodgrains? "

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is not at all necessary at this stage."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBAYYA :—" May I know, Sir, the conditions to be fulfilled by one to be a licensed dealer in foodgrains? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have not yet put the order into effect at all; so the question does not arise."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India order excludes growers of paddy from this licensing system? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Whether we are going to enforce this licensing system is still in the melting pot; the question therefore does not arise."

Foodgrains Order passed by the Central Government.

* 275 *Q.*—SRI R. KRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Foodgrains Order, dated 10th July 1952, of the Central Government was passed with the knowledge of this Government?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" In view of the fact that prices of foodgrains are shooting up as can be seen from the newspaper reports, will the Government consider implementing the order immediately and permit the P.C.C. Societies of Malabar to deal in foodgrains? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, shooting, I find, is only in this House. The suggestion is to re-introduce control. I do not think it is necessary at this stage to introduce any control."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Will the Government place before the House a statement on the general level of prices in all the districts and how much it is above the control prices? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir, I am prepared to give the information to the hon. Member."

SRI ALLURI VENKATARAMARAJU :—" తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లా రాజోలు తాలూకాలో ధాన్యానికి ధర 20 రూపాయలనుంచి 28 రూపాయల వరకు పెరిగిందని గవర్నమెంటువారికి తెలియపరచబడినది. అట్లు పెరగడంవల్ల ఆ తాలూకాలో వున్నటువంటి గవర్నమెంటు స్వాధీనములో వున్న 30 వేల బస్తాల ధాన్యాన్ని అంత విడుదల చేసి ధర తగ్గేటట్లు చేస్తారా ?"

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, I shall translate the question. Are the Government aware that the people of Razole taluk, East Godavari district, have informed the Government that the price of foodgrains has risen from Rs. 20 to Rs. 28 per bag and will the Government immediately take steps to release the foodgrains in their possession and reduce the prices? "